

IN THE CLAIMS:**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

1. (Previously presented): A method for managing a utility service, the method comprising the steps of:
analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service by an appliance operably connected to the utility service; and,
sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service network, said message including instructions for modifying utility service consumption of the appliance based on the analysis of the relationship information.
2. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes instructions for permitting increased power consumption by the appliance.
3. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes instructions for permitting decreased power consumption by the appliance.
4. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes instructions for modifying permitted power consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.
5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the data network is the Internet.
6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the data network includes at least one of a wireless link and a Bluetooth connection.
7. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the data network contains at least one link sharing physical wiring with the utility service network.

8. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein sending the message to the at least one region includes broadcasting the message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

9. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein sending the message to the at least one region includes transmitting the message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

10. (Previously presented): A method for managing a utility service, the method comprising the steps of:

analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service; and,

sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service network to thereby modify utility service consumption based on the analysis of the relationship information;

wherein each region of the utility service network is classified into a class of service.

11. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein sending the message includes broadcasting the message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.

12. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein sending the message includes broadcasting the message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.

13. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.
14. (Previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one region is one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a consumption management service provider.
15. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.
16. (Previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one term or condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.
17. (Previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.
18. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:
analyzing historical data relating conditions of sale of the utility service to consumption levels of the utility service; and
generating the message based on the analysis of the relationship information and the analysis of the historical data.
19. (Previously presented): A system for managing a utility service, comprising:
means for analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service by an appliance operably connected to the utility service; and
means for sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service network, said message including instructions for modifying utility service consumption of the appliance based on the analysis of the relationship information.

20. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19, wherein the message includes instructions for granting permission for increased power consumption by the appliance.
21. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19, wherein the message includes instructions for granting permission for decreased power consumption of the appliance.
22. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19, wherein the message includes instructions for permitting power consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.
23. (Original): The system of claim 19, wherein the data network is the Internet.
24. (Original): The system of claim 19, wherein the data network includes at least one of a wireless link and a Bluetooth connection.
25. (Original): The system of claim 19, wherein the data network contains at least one link sharing physical wiring with the utility service network.
26. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19, wherein the means for sending the message to the at least one region includes means for broadcasting the message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.
27. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19, wherein means for sending the message to the at least one region includes means for transmitting the message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

28. (Previously presented): A system for managing a utility service, comprising:
means for analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of
availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service; and
means for sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility
service network to thereby modify utility service consumption based on the analysis of
the relationship information;
wherein each region of the utility service network is classified into a class of
service.
29. (Original): The system of claim 28, wherein the means for sending the message
includes means for broadcasting the message to regions in the utility service network
having a given class of service.
30. (Original): The system of claim 28, wherein the means for sending the message
includes means for broadcasting the message to regions having a given class of service
within a defined geographic area.
31. (Original): The system of claim 19, wherein the utility service is providing
electricity.
32. (Previously presented): The system of claim 28, wherein the at least one region is
one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming
devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a
consumption management service provider.
33. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19, wherein the message further
includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.
34. (Previously presented): The system of claim 33, wherein the at least one term or
condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.

35. (Previously presented): The system of claim 33, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.

36. (Original): The system of claim 19, further comprising:
means for analyzing historical data relating conditions of sale of the utility service to consumption levels of the utility service; and
means for generating the message based on the analysis of the relationship information and the analysis of the historical data.

37. (Previously presented): A computer program product in a tangible computer readable medium for managing a utility service, comprising:
first instructions for analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service by an appliance operably connected to the utility service; and
second instructions for sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service network, said message including instructions for modifying utility service consumption of the appliance based on the analysis of the relationship information.

38. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the message includes instructions for permitting increased power consumption by the appliance.

39. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the message includes instructions for permitting decreased power consumption by the appliance.

40. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the message includes instructions for modifying permitted power consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and

wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.

41. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the second instructions include instructions for broadcasting the message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

42. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the second instructions include instructions for transmitting the message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is one appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

43. (Previously presented): A computer program product in a tangible computer readable medium for managing a utility service, comprising:

first instructions for analyzing relationship information representing a relationship of availability of the utility service and consumption of the utility service; and

second instructions for sending a message over a data network to at least one region of a utility service network to thereby modify utility service consumption based on the analysis of the relationship information;

wherein each region of the utility service network is classified into a class of service.

44. (Original): The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the second instructions include instructions for broadcasting the message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.

45. (Original): The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the second instructions include instructions for broadcasting the message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.
46. (Original): The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.
47. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the at least one region is one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a consumption management service provider.
48. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 37 wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.
49. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 48 wherein the at least one term or condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.
50. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 48, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.
51. (Previously presented): The computer program product of claim 37, further comprising:
third instructions for analyzing historical data relating conditions of sale of the utility service to consumption levels of the utility service; and
fourth instructions for generating the message based on the analysis of the relationship information and the analysis of the historical data.
52. (Previously presented): A method of managing consumption of a utility, comprising:

generating at least one message for at least one region of a utility service network,
the at least one message including instructions for modifying utility consumption of an
appliance in the at least one region; and
sending the at least one message to the at least one region.

53. (Previously presented): The method of claim 52, wherein the at least one message includes instructions permitting increased utility consumption by the appliance.

54. (Previously presented): The method of claim 52, wherein the at least one message includes instructions permitting decreased utility consumption.

55. (Previously presented): The method of claim 52, wherein the at least one message includes instructions permitting utility consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.

56. (Previously presented): The method of claim 52, wherein sending the at least one message to the at least one region includes broadcasting the at least one message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

57. (Previously presented): The method of claim 52, wherein sending the at least one message to the at least one region includes transmitting the at least one message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

58. (Previously presented): A method of managing consumption of a utility, comprising:

generating at least one message for at least one region of a utility service network, the at least one message instructing a region to modify utility consumption by the at least one region; and

sending the at least one message to the at least one region;

wherein the at least one region of the utility service network is classified into a class of service.

59. (Original): The method of claim 58, wherein sending the at least one message includes broadcasting the at least one message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.

60. (Original): The method of claim 58, wherein sending the at least one message includes broadcasting the at least one message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.

61. (Original): The method of claim 52, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.

62. (Previously presented): The method of claim 58, wherein the at least one region is one of a single power consuming device, a subset of a plurality of power consuming devices, a portion of the utility service network in a geographic region, and a consumption management service provider.

63. (Previously presented): The method of claim 52, wherein the at least one message further includes instructions for modifying at least one term or condition of sale.

64. (Previously presented): The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one term or condition of sale is at least one of price and a pricing method.

65. (Original): The method of claim 63, wherein modifying the at least one term or condition of sale includes varying the price of the utility service based on a rate of consumption of the utility service.

66. (Previously presented): An apparatus for managing consumption of a utility, comprising:

means for generating at least one message for at least one region of a utility service network, the at least one message being used to modify utility consumption of an appliance in the at least one region; and,

means for sending the at least one message to the at least one region.

67. (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the at least one message includes instructions for increasing utility consumption by the appliance.

68. (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the at least one message includes instructions for decreasing utility consumption by the appliance.

69. (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the at least one message modifies permitted utility consumption for aggregated regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the aggregated regions.

70. (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the means for sending the at least one message to the at least one region includes means for broadcasting the at least one message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

71. (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the means for sending the at least one message to the at least one region includes means for transmitting the at least one message as a multicast message to multiple regions, wherein the appliance is an appliance in a class of appliances, and wherein the message further includes instructions for modifying consumption of all appliances in the class of appliances within the multiple regions.

72. (Previously presented): An apparatus for managing consumption of a utility, comprising:

means for generating at least one message for at least one region of a utility service network, the at least one message being used to modify utility consumption of an appliance in the at least one region; and,

means for sending the at least one message to the at least one region;

wherein the at least one region of the utility service network is classified into a class of service.

73. (Original): The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the means for sending the at least one message includes means for broadcasting the at least one message to regions in the utility service network having a given class of service.

74. (Original): The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the means for sending the at least one message includes means for broadcasting the at least one message to regions having a given class of service within a defined geographic area.

75. (Original): The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the utility service is providing electricity.

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